**The claims defining the invention are as follows:**

1. A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the container;
- extracting at least some of the residual gas present in the container; and
- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the container to flush residual gas from the container.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of extracting the residual gas reduces gas pressure in the container below ambient atmospheric pressure outside the container.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein when the pressure of residual gas in the container reaches a pre-determined value, the flow of flushing gas is initiated and the gas pressure in the container increases.

4. A method of removing a residual gas from inside a conventional shipping container, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the container;
- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the container to flush the residual gas from the container; and
- extracting a flow of the flushing gas and the residual gas until at least some of the residual gas present in the container is removed.

5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the total pressure of gases within the container is monitored and controlled.

6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a majority of the residual gas present in the container is extracted.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising the step of absorbing/adsorbing at least part of the residual gas extracted from the container into/onto an absorption/adsorption means.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein substantially all of the extracted residual gas is absorbed/adsorbed into/onto the absorbing/adsorbing means.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 further comprising the step of washing the absorption/adsorption means to remove the absorbed/adsorbed residual gas.

10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the step of accessing the container involves:

- opening a door of the container; and
- operatively coupling a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means to the container at the open door so that the container is sealed during the extraction and flushing of gases.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the flushing gas is introduced via the gas inlet means.

12. A method as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein gas is extracted via the gas extraction means.

13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the flushing gas is atmospheric air.

14. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the container is provided with means for monitoring

and controlling the pressure of gas in the container.

15. A method of removing a residual gas that is present in an enclosure, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the enclosure to operatively couple a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means thereto;
- extracting a flow of the residual gas via the gas extraction means until at least some of the residual gas present is removed; and
- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the enclosure via the gas inlet means to flush the residual gas from the enclosure.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the step of extracting the residual gas reduces gas pressure in the enclosure below ambient atmospheric pressure outside the enclosure.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein when the pressure of residual gas in the enclosure reaches a pre-determined value, the flow of flushing gas is initiated and the gas pressure in the enclosure increases.

18. A method of removing a residual gas that is present in an enclosure, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing the enclosure to operatively couple a gas inlet means and a gas extraction means thereto;
- providing a flow of a flushing gas into the enclosure via the gas inlet means to flush the residual gas from the enclosure; and
- extracting a flow of the flushing gas and the residual gas via the gas extraction means until at least some of the residual gas present in the enclosure is removed.

19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 18 wherein the enclosure is defined by a conventional shipping container.

20. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19 wherein the method is otherwise as defined in any one of claims 5 to 14.

21. Residual gas removal apparatus arranged to be operatively coupled to an enclosure for removing residual gas from inside the enclosure, the apparatus comprising:

- gas inlet means for introducing a flushing gas into the enclosure;
- gas extraction means for extracting gas from the enclosure;
- pressure monitoring means for monitoring the total pressure of gases within the enclosure; and
- controlling means for controlling the flow of gases through at least one of the gas inlet and gas extraction means in response to the monitored pressure within the enclosure.

22. Apparatus as claimed in claim 21 further comprising absorption/adsorption means for absorbing/adsorbing residual gas extracted from the container.

23. Apparatus as claimed in claim 22 wherein the absorption/adsorption means comprises an absorption/adsorption bed including activated carbon to which at least part of the extracted residual gas attaches at its surface and in its pores.

24. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claim 21 to claim 23 wherein the residual gas removal apparatus also comprises a panel arranged in use to be coupled to the enclosure in a

sealing manner, the gas inlet means and the gas extraction means operatively coupled or mounted to the panel.

25. Apparatus arranged to be operatively coupled to an enclosure for removing residual gas from inside the enclosure, the apparatus comprising:

- a framework mountable onto a surface and locatable adjacent to the enclosure in use; and
- a member mounted to the framework and comprising gas inlet means for introducing a flushing gas into the enclosure, gas extraction means for extracting gas from the enclosure and coupling means for coupling the member to the enclosure;

wherein the member is moveable between an in use coupled position in which the coupling means couples the member to the enclosure and a de-coupled position in which the member is spaced from the enclosure.

26. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 wherein the member is pivotally mounted to the framework.

27. Apparatus as claimed in claim 25 or claim 26 wherein the member further comprises a panel for coupling to an opening in the enclosure.

28. Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 25 to 27 which is otherwise as defined in any one of claims 21 to 24.